

## **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

May 31, 2017

**Phone meeting:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Janet Anderson, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Jeffrey Hopper, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Cathy Goode

- 1. Minutes from the April 26, 2017 meeting** – The minutes are in bullet form and still need to be written.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that Pinewoods fees continue to be received, but there have been no deposits from ESC since April. Nearly all the expenses for the recent Highland Ball have been received, but with 25% fewer attendees, the Ball incurred a loss of approximately \$747.07. (See below for more information.)

The deposit for the November Concert and rental space for the Demo Team have both been paid. From the on-line payments, the fees to Square are just over \$1000. Total Branch assets are \$79,299.17, a number that will be greatly decreased when the Pinewoods expenses are paid.

**3. Reports from Liaisons –**

- a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Linda) – Linda reports that she has confirmations from Alasdair and Natalie, and things are in motion from Robert's position as Artistic Director. People are starting to ask for tickets, so Linda will order them and keep the price the same as last year. Janet proposed including a student rate.
- b) Highland Ball (May 2017/2018) (Cathy C.) – The Ball incurred a loss of approximately \$747.00 with a few expenses not yet received. There seem to be several reasons for the loss. There was a 25% drop off in attendance, and the rent was slightly more to account for extra time. The police detail was present this year and they were paid, and we paid for a sound person yet it was Branch equipment set up by Branch members. In addition, the Friday Welcome Dance was poorly attended, and there were fewer out-of-state visitors. What can be done? The SDCEA could try offering a class discount for bringing a group from the same class which would make it cheaper per person to attend. Also, as a Branch, we need to focus on bringing in the new dancers. Was there enough advertising, was it advertised early enough, and how else can it be more widely broadcast? In general, dancers do not travel to as many other classes or groups as they did in the past. There has been competition for other events in the month of May. The date for next year is a

week later than this year's date, so let's see what happens. Kat will attend the next Exec meeting to continue with this discussion.

- c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy has not heard from Meaghan Murray in recent weeks, but the applications are still coming in. They are at the breakeven point.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) (Linda) – Camp is full with a short wait list for both sessions. A draft of the housing is done. The numbers need to be shared with Pinewoods by June 20th.  
Jeremy has been working on a refund policy and will be sending it out for review.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017 (Susan) – With the cancellation of one teacher, Robert McOwen has graciously agreed to fill that space.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Merrill) – Nothing new to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – At the last meeting, the members reviewed and proposed some edits to the Event Runners' Guide. They also discussed the recent Highland Ball and Welcome Dance with low attendance from out-of-town dancers.  
A workshop is being planned for Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held at the Canadian-American Club from 2 to 5 PM and the topic is the "History of the RSCDS Through Video and Dance." The price is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara report that they were able to produce the latest edition using just email. There was a delay due to Evelyn's e-mail breaking down but that has now been fixed. There was another delay getting the printed copies out due to technical problems at the printer.  
The next issue will be slightly tricky because Barbara will be in Berkeley and then in Australia, but they will try to get an early start.
- i) Demonstration Team (Linda) – The Team will be dancing at World Community Day in Harvard Square on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The idea of a subcommittee is proceeding, and they will meet soon.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – Memberships keep trickling in. What would be an appropriate cut-off date? With our fees, what do we receive from Headquarters? We get the magazine, reduced fees to events, and a decision-making voice in the organization.
- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – A candidate is still needed to fill the vacant position on this committee. It is a three-year commitment, but their services are only required once a year.

- l) Website (Jeffrey) – Executive Committee Meeting minutes are still needed  
There have been problems for people trying to access the website with their Android phones. Cathy C. will test it with her phone.
  - m) Publicity (Linda) – At the upcoming AGM, a request for help with publicity will be made.
  - n) Bookstore (Merrill) – No report at this time.
  - o) Class Liaisons –
    - Burlington, VT (Jeffrey) – The season has ended following a great social held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – The Fairlee class reports that their May dance was a success.
    - Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The class is planning a social to be held on the second Saturday in August.
    - Brookline, MA (Sue) – The end-of-the-year party was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> with the teachers from the past year acting as MCs. The class will resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - Cambridge, MA (Sue) – The end-of-the-season social will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. There will then be a two-week hiatus for Pinewoods before the class resumes.
    - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The class will continue until the third Thursday in June.
    - Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The DownEast Fling will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Old Business**
- a) Pinewoods Board member replacement – A prospective replacement was approved by Exec. Jeremy will ask the candidate and write letters to those others who had expressed an interest in the job.
- 5. New Business –**
- a) AGM preparation – June 5<sup>th</sup> – Jeremy will speak briefly on our priorities going forward. The number one priority is to bring in new members.
- 6. Next Meetings –**
- a) June changeover meeting at Janet’s
  - b) No meeting in July.